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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/680,747	10/07/2003	Elena Casellini	BST-10302/38	5365
25006	7590	08/11/2004	EXAMINER	
GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, PC 280 N OLD WOODARD AVE SUITE 400 BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009			GALL, LLOYD A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	
DATE MAILED: 08/11/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/680,747

Applicant(s)

CASELLINI ET AL.

Examiner

Lloyd A. Gall

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 3, line 2, "A-A" should be replaced with --3-3--. In the last line of page 3, the fifth and sixth words are illegible. On page 4, line 6, "16" should be replaced with --18--. On page 4, line 18, "22" should be replaced with --24--. Lines 2-3 of page 5 are grammatically incorrect.

Appropriate correction is required.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The written description should provide support for a "securement" as claimed in claim 11, line 7.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the shapes as claimed in claim 3 and claim 7, line 3 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate

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changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claims 7-9, 12, 16, 17 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 7, line 2, the first occurrence of "of" should be replaced with – from--. In claim 8, line 2, it is not clear what is meant by "a portion". In claim 8, line 2, there is no antecedent basis for "said form". In claim 8, line 3, there is no antecedent basis for "the second edge". Claim 9 should depend from claim 8 to provide antecedent basis for "the second tactile feature" in claim 9. In claim 12, line 3 and claim 16, line 4, "complimentary" should be replaced with –complementary--. In claim 17, line 3, "such as" is unclear whether or not the elements which follow are being claimed, or not. Claim 19 should depend from claim 18 to provide antecedent basis for "the textural treatment" in claim 19. Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10 and 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cicourel.

As seen in figures 1 and 2 and as set forth in column 1, line 37, Cicourel teaches multiple keys having openings therein and multiple key covers 1 having differently shaped tactile feature projections 5 on opposite sidewalls of the key cover and apertures which register with the opening in the key head, wherein the projections 5 in the figures are regarded as being identical on opposite sidewalls of the cover. The sidewalls have edges which face the blade 3 of the key. The tactile features 5 are used to identify different keys. With respect to claim 10, the key cover is a unitary piece, and the claim is not drawn to a molding method, which "molded" limitation is of no patentable significance. Claims 12-19 are regarded as product-by-process claims of no patentable significance, as the article claimed must patentably define over the prior art.

Claims 1-10 and 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the DM/059931 reference.

The DM reference teaches numerous embodiments of key covers having apertures in the sidewalls to register with an opening in the key head, as well as raised circular projections on the sidewalls as seen in figure 9.3, and depressed shapes in figure 9.1 on the sidewall, as well as raised circular projections on the edges of the sidewalls as seen in figs. 3.2, 3.3, 7.2, 8.2. Figure 6.3 also discloses a house icon. As noted above, claims 12-19 are regarded as product-by-process claims, and do not patentably define over the DM reference.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Cicourel or the DM (931) reference, in view of Sheldon.

The Cicourel and DM references have been discussed above. Sheldon teaches a key ring securement used to hold multiple keys, wherein the multiple keys have different identifiers 18, 18A (column 3, lines 9-11) used therewith. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize multiple keys of the Cicourel or DM references with different tactile features located on the same key ring, in view of the teaching of Sheldon, to allow an individual to carry multiple keys and distinguish the keys by their tactile features.

Claims 3, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cicourel in view of the DM (931) reference.

Both references have been discussed above. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute circular projections along the edges of the cover of Cicourel for projections 5 thereof, in view of the teaching of figure 8.2 and 8.3 of the DM reference, since any well known type of tactile indicia would function just as well in identifying a key.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cicourel in view of Gapco or Lesko.

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Gapco teaches depressions in figure 4B to identify a key, as does Lesko teach depressions 17 to identify a key. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute depression(s) for the projections 5 of Cicourel, in view of the teaching of Gapco or Lesko, since either well known type of tactile feature would function just as well in identifying a key.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Numerous other cited references also teach key identifying features on the key.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 703-308-0828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on 703-308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

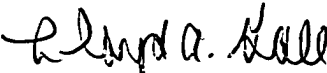
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LG LG

August 7, 2004


Lloyd A. Hall
Primary Examiner